



Iraqi Army expands responsibility

Story and photo by
Pfc. Sean C. Finch
MNC - I PAO

The Multi-national Division-Central South, turned over their territory to the 8th Division Iraqi Army Jan. 26 in a transfer of authority ceremony on Camp Echo in Diwaniya.

The division will be responsible for 25 percent of the entire land mass of Iraq, to include approximately 165 kilometers of border with Iran.

The coalition forces in the area used the land to train an all Iraqi division of soldiers and is entrusting the land's security to the 8th.

"The goal of training units like the 8th Division is to eventually be able to give all coalition territories back to the Iraqi people," said Maj. Gen. Piotr Czerwinski, Commander, Multi National Division Central South. "The vision is coming true."

"The 8th Division has proven themselves fit to the task and this is the first major step in the phase out of coalition forces in Iraq," said Czerwinski.

"The process towards this monumental goal began in the early months of 2005," said Czerwinski. Today marks the completion of our final step



Maj. Gen. Piotr Czerwinski, (left) commander, Multinational Division Central South, signs 25 percent of Iraq over to Maj. Gen. Othman Ali Farhood, commander, Iraqi 8th Division

in this mission, he said.

"We are proud of our soldiers and their accomplishments, and the people of Diwaniya can be proud of their military members. After a year in Iraq your troops have shown that they are dedicated and your commitments have inspired all coalition forces here," said Czerwinski.

The 8th has proven their abilities, and has shown that they have the tools to continue to secure the insta-

bility in Iraq, said General George W. Casey, Commanding General, Multi National Forces Iraq.

"The 8th Division has succeeded and we are postured to move forward in the year 2006," said Casey.

"Perhaps the greatest triumph is that the Iraqi soldiers of the 8th Division are now capable of training themselves and new soldiers," said Casey.

See **RESPONSIBILITY** Page 3

Today in the *Victory Times*

Page 2

Hope grows for an Iraqi community with opening of food distribution facility.

Page 3

Chaplain's Corner

Page 4

Marines unite in combat zone

Page 5

The latest "Voices of Victory" question: "What Do You Do With Your Down-Time?"

Hope grows for an Iraqi community

Story and photos by
Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro
4th Infantry Division PAO

Residents of Diyarrah celebrated the opening of a food distribution center in Jan 25.

The center enables residents to buy grain, produce and other items at low prices through a program created by the Iraqi government.

"We hope this is the beginning of many openings and celebrations for us," said Saleh Hasen Alwan, the local imam. "The people of this area are in need of something like this."

The town council makes sure the voices of its people are heard, said Capt. Ben Simms, commander, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

"Diyarah is a great success because of the town council's commitment to its people."



Capt. Ben Simms, commander, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division; Saleh Husen Alwan, Diyarrah imam; and Iraqi Capt. Majed Hady Al-Shemevy, commander, 4th Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Div., cuts a ribbon signifying the official opening the new food distribution center Jan. 25.

The project was a total community effort as local politicians acquired funding for the project, construction workers rebuilt the structures, and Iraqi soldiers secured the area so the workers were safe from terrorist threat.

The buildings were destroyed during the initial portion of Operation Iraqi

Freedom. Warlords and gang members then used the buildings to organize criminal activities until the Iraqi army planted itself in the town, said Capt. Carlos Badillo, information officer, 2-8 Inf.

The town council feels safe because of the presence of the Iraqi army, Simms said.

New bathrooms, ceilings and floors were installed for more than 40 local nationals who will work at the center.

"This is a nationwide effort," said Badillo. "You have the big government helping a small community, and in turn the small community government helping its people. It proves the Iraqi government is working."

DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

Don't be the OTHER driver!!

Before you tell it to your Inspector General



The Multinational Corps-Iraq Office of the Inspector General is here to assist all personnel Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and command teams assigned to MNC-I. Our mission is to conduct assistance, inspections and investigations while teaching and training in order to assist the commander with providing the Army with highly motivated, well disciplined, physically and mentally fit personnel and units who are focused on teamwork, ingrained with the Warrior Ethos and are committed to core values.

A large part of our IG workload is assisting individuals with a wide scope of issues and problems that they are experiencing. If you have an issue that you cannot seem to resolve, the IG office may be able to assist you. But, before you come to the IG for assistance, please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- (1) Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve. (Has there been a violation of a policy, regulation, or due process?)
- (2) Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem. The first question that the IG will ask is whether you have talked to your chain of command. (Many problems must be addressed to the chain of command for resolution anyway).
- (3) Be honest and don't provide misleading information. (IG's will discover the truth quickly in most cases and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information).
- (4) Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers.
- (5) Keep in mind that IGs can only recommend, not order a resolution. (Only commanders can command; the role of the IG is to advise the commander on policy and regulations).
- (6) Remember IGs can only resolve a case on the basis of fact. A complaint must be supported with evidence. Bring a copy with you of all documentation concerning your problem.
- (7) Don't expect instant action on your request...Be patient. IGs will be thorough in their research of your issue.
- (8) Be prepared to take "No" for the answer, or hear an answer you may not like. After research, IGs will provide you with their impartial conclusion based on policy and regulations. (In any case "Yes" or "No", the IG will ensure you understand why).

After understanding the above guidelines, if you need assistance from the IG office, please contact us. We are located on Victory Base in the Al Faw Palace, Room 312. Our phone number is (318) 822-4270 or 822-2491.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Does \$15,000 tax-free interest you?
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Army National Guard can mean.
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Multinational Corps-Iraq presents the
opening ceremony of ...

AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2006

Al Faw Palace Ballroom, Feb 3, 2006, 6 -
9 P.M.

Guest Speaker:

Col. Joseph B. Coleman
Multinational Corps-
Iraq Inspector General



Refreshments will be
provided.

RSVP Colonel/Command
Sergeant major and above
No later than Jan 28, 2006

Sgt. 1st Class Balduf, MNC-I
HR/EO Advisor
822-3545/3532 or

christopher.balduf@iraq.cent
com.mil

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAP. (MAJ.) CHARLES M. HERRING

"Moving out"

*"Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil: for thou art with
me; thy rod and thy staff they
comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)"*

My wife and I have a powerful
military art print hanging over
our bed. Every evening as we
go to bed and every morning
when we wake up to stare at this
commanding print we recognize
it is the symbolic existence of
every soldier moving out, leav-
ing a family to wait his return.
The print is titled "Moving Out"
by Don Stivers. There was noth-
ing routine about the mission of
the U.S. Cavalrymen. The real,
sudden danger of the unforgiv-
ing frontier was always on their
minds.

In the print, cavalry troopers
are moving out on yet another

mission. The formation moves
pass the red bricked post hous-
ing with long shaded porches
and ruff hewn flooring. The
columns continue to slowly pass
uncertain yet courageous family
members into the frontier.

A mother holds her infant while
two obedient children stand by
her side as she watches her
trooper ride past silhouetted in
the early morning sun.

"Moving Out" speaks power-
fully to each modern soldier and
their families. Like the troopers
in the print, I'm on a journey to
board the bus for the airport. I
look around me and see the
same stoic faces of the old cav-
alry troopers on the young faces
of America's finest sons and
daughters, now focused straight
ahead as we board the bus for
our journey. The faces horse-
shoes upon the hard western
clay as the trooper moves pass
the security and comfort of post
into the unsecured frontier and

harsh realities of being a trooper
on patrol.

All these sights and sounds
are still true of today's "trooper".
Boarding the bus I hear a small
boy say, "Bye, Papa. Bye Papa"
and a young girl says, "My birth-
day is next month. Will you be
here, Mom?"

There is the rustle of heavy
rucks being loaded, sliding
against duffle bags packed with
more gear. There is the sound
of weapons being shouldered
then stored overhead on the
bus. Sitting in this seat I can
imagine what saddle leather
would sound like as I try to find a
comfortable spot for the silent
journey to the airport. The scuff-
ing of horseshoes is replaced by
the whine of a jet engine prepar-
ing to taxi down the early morn-
ing runway.

Lastly there are the stoic faces
with eyes that pierce straight
through to the heart and soul of
each soldier.

RESPONSIBILITY

This event marks the first battle-
space assumption of this magnitude in
Iraq.

The intensive training process was
conducted by MNDSCS military
Transition teams consisting of Polish,
Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Salvadorian,
and United States instructors.

The efforts of the mission were the
training of the division, as well as the
training of the Iraqi border police.

As part of the training, Iraqi soldiers
took part in numerous counterinsur-
gency operations in a side-by-side
manner with MNDSCS troops.

In September 2005, six battalions of
8th were certified as ready for con-
ducting independent operations, and
in November the entire division was
certified.

"To see the progress we have made
here, one needs look no further than
the elections that occurred here only a

few months ago," said Czerwinski.
"Not one terrorist attack occurred in
this area making it one of the most
stable portions of Iraq. This is due, in
no small part, to the excellence of
MNDSCS and Iraqi soldiers working
hand in hand with each other."

Since early 2005, the Iraqi soldiers
working with MNDSCS have conduct-
ed operations, recovering significant
numbers of illegal weapons as well as
detaining numerous persons suspected
of terrorist activities.

"It is a great honor for the 8th
Division to be the first division in
Iraq to receive its own area of land
for security," said Maj. Gen. Othman
Ali Farhood, commander, Iraqi 8th
Division.

"Training will be continuous. We are
well equipped and are more than pre-
pared to take control and responsibili-
ty for the prosperity of this area."



Remember: it's never too late to quit

- Enroll in a tobacco cessation class (see
your local Medical Facility for more Info).

**Secure the
incident site.**



**A second device
could be waiting
for you.**



STAY ALIVE

Marines reunite in combat zone

Story by
Pfc. Sean C. Finch
MNC - I PAO

For most people, the word deployment means separation from family and loved ones, but for two Marines, a deployment allowed them to be together.

1st Lt. Jennifer Meek, Multinational Corps Iraq C-3 watch officer, from Camp Pendleton Calif., and her Husband Capt. Donald H. Meek, MNC-I C3 Air, out of Cherry Point N.C., were able to come together by deploying to Iraq.

"We met while stationed in Okinawa, Japan," she said.

"The actual moment was while on a plane on our way to Thailand for a training exercise. We didn't begin dating until about a year and a half later when we moved back to the United States."

"When we moved back to the United States, he was stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina and I was at Camp Pendleton, California; so



courtesy photo

Capt. Donald Meek and his wife, 1st Lt. Jennifer Meek, pose for a photo shortly after they were married.

we both planned to deploy to Iraq at the same time in hopes of being closer together," she said.

They managed to see each other a couple times by catching flights between Camp Taqaddum and Camp Victory. In April, he flew out to see her and proposed. "He proposed with a classy ring made out of a Hesko barrier and a big red rock," she said.

Still, being stationed in different places, the couple decided to get married before they returned home.

At the time of the deployment, she was 1st

Lt. Jennifer Eixenberger, but has since then changed her name because she was married in Iraq.

"The worst part, to me, has been trying to get my name changed. Otherwise, it was actually kind of scary how easy it was to get married in Iraq," she said.

The couple was married by hiring two people to stand in for them in a double proxy ceremony held in Montana.

"So, we faxed them our information and paid \$900 for the whole thing. They emailed us paperwork that we had to get certified and we mailed it

back to them," she added. "One of the Marine lawyers here actually notarized the paperwork for us too."

They tried to keep the wedding a secret from their families until they could have a real ceremony after the deployment but things didn't go as planned.

I sent a picture home to my mother with my new name tape on it and that ruined the surprise, she said.

Even though the surprise was ruined they are still planning on having the ceremony after they get back.

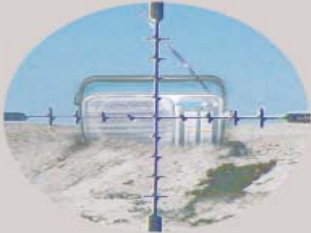
"The last few months have been easier here because I feel like I always have someone to talk to now that we are living together," she said.

"The only problem now, is we will be separated for a couple of weeks until we both receive new duty assignments that will station us together."

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions

or comments to joe.battle1@iraq.centcom.mil.


We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



KEEP IT LOCKED ON...

Al Asad	107.3 FM	Kirkush	107.3 FM
Al Basra	107.3 FM	Mosul	105.1 FM
Ar Ramadi	107.3 FM	Q-West	93.3 FM
Baghdad	107.7 FM	Taji	107.3 FM
Basra	107.3 FM	Tel Afar	107.3 FM
Fallujah	105.1 FM	Taqaddum	107.3 FM
Kirkuk	107.3 FM	Tikrit	100.1 FM

Freedom Radio



Voices of Victory: What Do You Do With Your Down-Time?



"I like to talk to my wife back in Darmstadt, Germany through the webcams at MWR"

Spc. Nathaniel S. Beckett
7/101 Avaiton Battalion
S3 Flight Ops Specialist



"I like to get caught up on watching some movies and sleep"

Spc. Jodie M. Mangawang,
302nd Military Intelligence
Specialist



"I like to get to the gym whenever I get a chance. Some days, I just have to make the time to do it."

Capt. Mark A. Sylvestre
MNC-I, 17th FA Bde
FP Officer

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.

Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.

Gospel Service Noon

Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.

Episcopal 4 p.m.

Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.

Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

Eastern Orthodox services:

Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.

Confession 5:30 p.m.

Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon



MNF-I/MNC-I

Human Relations/Equal Opportunity Office

Camp Victory, Iraq



For information, guidance, regulation, policies, and training regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other forms of discrimination contact



HR/EO Program Manager
MAJ Dennis Small



HR/EO SGM
SGM Evy Lacy

Camp Victory, Iraq
DSN: 822-3545/3532

Email:

dennis.small@iraq.centcom.mil
evy.lacy@iraq.centcom.mil
michael.shadel@iraq.centcom.mil
christopher.balduf@iraq.centcom.mil



Senior HR/EO Advisor
MSG Michael Shadel



HR/EO Advisor
SFC Chris Balduf

THEATER HUMAN RELATIONS/EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY ADVISORS & SEXUAL
ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATORS



BEWARE!



AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF A

LARCENY

- LOCK IT, DON'T LOSE IT!!
- Don't leave valuables unsecured in your room, tent, or gym.
- Don't leave valuables out in the open.
- Don't give your keys to others.
- If you become a **VICTIM** of a Larceny, report it immediately.

REPORT CRIME 24 / 7

to the

MILITARY POLICE

DSN: 822-4790.

Victory MWR Events for January 31 - February 7

Today: Ping Pong Tournament at Bldg. 51; Dominoes Tournament at Bldg. 124 at 8 p.m.; At the Gym: Tae Kwon Do from 6 - 7 p.m. and Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday: Spades Tournament at Bldg. 51; Ping Pong Tournament at Bldg. 124; At the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

Thursday: Country Night at Bldg. 124; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Sambo/Ju-Jitsu from 9 - 10 p.m.

Friday: Latin Dance Night at 9 p.m. at Bldg. 51; First-run movies at Bldg. 124; At the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m.

and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Fencing from 7 - 9 p.m.

Saturday: Football Tournament (Friday and Saturday); First-run movies at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

Sunday: Chess Tournament at Bldg. 124 and Bldg. 51 at 8 p.m.; Martin Luther King, Jr. 5K Run.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Monday: Chess Tournament at Bldg. 124; 9-Ball Tournament at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson

MNC-I Command Info. Chief: Sgt. 1st Class Laurence R. Lang
MNC-I Production Chief: Sgt. Joe M. Battle
Victory Times Staff writer: Pfc. Sean C. Finch

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